

Application No. 09/681,403

Amendment dated March 3, 2004

Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) A vehicle steering-wheel arrangement for being connected to a steering column, the vehicle steering-wheel arrangement comprising:

a steering wheel rim;

at least one spoke connected to the rim;

a generally bowl-shaped element between the spoke and steering column;

an integral wall of the bowl-shaped element having a gradually varying radius from an axis of the steering column over at least an arcuate portion of the wall extending along the axis;

an upper arcuate portion of the element integral wall that forms including an upper opening about which the integral wall upper arcuate portion extends for receiving an airbag therein;

a smaller lower portion of the element integral wall that forms including a lower opening about which the integral wall lower portion extends for receiving an inflating device therein, the lower portion including an upper end at which the lower opening opens to the upper opening;

a radial radially extending ledge portion of the element integral wall having a radially inner end terminating at the upper end of the integral wall lower portion with the ledge portion extending radially outward therefrom to join with and a radially out end terminating at a lower end of the integral wall upper portion such that the radial ledge wall portion is the only element wall portion extending radially between the element upper and lower element

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wall portions and the lower opening opens to the upper opening without interfering wall portions of the element therebetween.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) The vehicle steering-wheel arrangement of claim ~~44~~<sup>43</sup> wherein the spoke has a gradually varying radius similar to the wall portion to provide a continuous gradual curvature along and between the wall portion and spoke.

46. (Previously Presented) The vehicle steering-wheel arrangement of claim 43 wherein the integral wall of the bowl-shaped element is of a unitary construction avoiding the need for securing the upper and lower element portions to each other in a distinct attachment operation.